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Message Text

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22
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

IO-13 DHA-02 CU-02 /077 W
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R 021528Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0176
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11268

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, FR, PFOR, XG
SUBJECT: MITTERAND/BRANDT MEETING JUNE 23

REF: PARIS 1908L

1. THE GERMAN REPORT ON THE BRANDT-MITTERAND MEETING SUGGESTS THAT THE MEETING BEGAN IN A STORMY MANNER BUT ENDED CALMLY AFTER SOME FRENCH ASSURANCES.

2. ACCORDING TO A SENIOR SPD OFFICIAL, BRANDT BEGAN
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HIS MEETING WITH MITTERAND BY REFUSING THE DRINK

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(CAMPARI) THAT MITTERAND HAD OFFERED HIM AND LAUNCHING INTO A SHARP DENUNCIATION OF THE MANNER IN WHICH MITTERAND HAD FORMED AND HANDLED THE COMMITTEE TO STUDY CASES OF ALLEGED CIVIL RIGHTS INFRINGEMENT IN THE FRG. ACCORDING TO THE GERMANS, BRANDT SPOKE WITH CONSIDERABLE FERVOR.

3. MITTERAND ALLEGEDLY RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT EVERY-THING ABOUT THE COMMITTEE HAD BEEN ELABORATED WHILE HE WAS AWAY ON A TRIP AND THAT HE HAD BEEN LEFT WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO ANNOUNCE IT WHEN HE RETURNED. HE EXPLAIN-ED FURTHER THAT HE HAD FORMED THE COMMITTEE IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO CONTROL IT, SAYING THAT IF HE HAD NOT FORMED IT A NUMBER OF SOCIALISTS MIGHT HAVE JOINED A CPF COMMITTEE INTENDING TO LOOK INTO THE SAME ISSUE.

4. THE MEETING ENDED ON A MORE FRIENDLY NOTE, ACCORDING TO THE SPD, WHEN MITTERAND ASSURED BRANDT THAT HE AND THE SOCIALIST PARTY WOULD NOT PRESS THE INVESTIGATION OR MAKE A MAJOR ISSUE OF IT AFTER THEY HAD COME TO GERMANY FOR THE STUDY WHICH THE SPD HAD SUGGESTED.

5. THE GERMAN PRESS, OBVIOUSLY BRIEFED BY BRANDT AND HIS STAFF, HAS CONCENTRATED ON BRANDT'S STATEMENTS BEFORE THE UNESCO COLLOQUIUM IN PARIS. THOSE STATEMENTS DEFENDED THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM AND THE STATE OF CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND INCLUDED THE ASSERTION THAT BRANDT HAD COME TO UNESCO IN PART "TO PROTECT MY COUNTRY FROM UNJUSTIFIED ATTACKS". BRANDT ALSO EXPRESSED REGRET THAT OUTSIDERS WOULD MAKE HASTY JUDGMENTS BASED ON FALSE INFORMATION. ONE REPORT INDICATED THAT BRANDT HAD TALKED TO MITTERAND IN A "MORE DRASTIC AND MORE DETAILED MANNER" THAN AT UNESCO.

6. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SPD DOES NOT WISH TO MAKE THIS A MAJOR ISSUE. HOWEVER, BRANDT'S OWN PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO CIVIL RIGHTS, AND THE GENERAL GERMAN BELIEF THAT THEY HAVE INDEED CREATED A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN THE FRG, CANNOT HELP BUT EXPRESS THEMSELVES IN A STRONG MANNER WHEN THEY FEEL THAT THEY HAVE
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BEEN UNFAIRLY ATTACKED. THE BRANDT-MITTERAND MEETING HAS CLEARED THE AIR BUT A LOT DEPENDS ON HOW THE FRENCH HANDLE THIS FROM NOW ON.
HILLENBRAND

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